

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BERNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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ADVERTISEMENTS, to a limited number, will be inserted in the WEEKLY HERALD, and in the European and California Editions.

VOLUNTARY CORRESPONDENCE, containing important news, solicited from any quarter of the world; if used, will be liberally paid for. OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ARE PARTICULARLY REQUESTED TO SEND ALL LETTERS AND PACKAGES SENT BY MAIL.

NO NOTICE taken of anonymous correspondence. We do not return rejected communications.

Volume XXVIII.....No. 166

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE DEER'S MOTTO.
WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—YOUTHFUL QUEEN—THE OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.

LAURA KENNEDY'S THEATRE, Broadway.—WIVES OF PAUL—PAIN OF FLORE—GEMS OF THE OPERA.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—BAMBOOLING—NEW THEATRE—FRENCH OPERA—TURNING THE TABLES—ROMANCE OF THE FUTURE.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—REIN DAY—FRISKY COMEDY—LACE SHIRTS.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—GEM OF THE THEATRE—THE DEER'S MOTTO—THE DEER'S MOTTO—THE DEER'S MOTTO.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 473 Broadway.—THE DEER'S MOTTO—THE DEER'S MOTTO—THE DEER'S MOTTO.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 614 Broadway.—THE DEER'S MOTTO—THE DEER'S MOTTO—THE DEER'S MOTTO.

THE NEW IDEA, 48 Broadway.—SONGS, BURLESQUES, BALLADS, AC.—ROBERT MACAINE.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 44 Broadway.—BALEINE, TANTOMINI, BURLESQUES, AC.

BOPE CHAPEL, 720 Broadway.—PANDORA OF THE HOLY LAND—CONCERT BY THE OLD FOLKS.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 68 Broadway.—CUTANITIS AND LECTURES, from 9 A. M. till 10 P. M.

ROOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—STYRIAN COMEDY, DANCE, BURLESQUES, AC.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, June 16, 1863.

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

Advertisements for the WEEKLY HERALD must be handed in before ten o'clock every Wednesday evening. Its circulation among the enterprising mechanics, farmers, merchants, manufacturers and gentlemen throughout the country is increasing very rapidly. Advertisements inserted in the WEEKLY HERALD will thus be seen by a large portion of the active and energetic people of the United States.

THE SITUATION.

The invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania by the rebel forces of General Lee is the all absorbing topic in the war news to-day. It appears that at noon on Sunday the rebel forces made their appearance in strength at Berryville and Martinsburg. At the latter place they were met with a stubborn resistance by the Union forces, but in vain, they had to fall back. Yesterday morning our troops evacuated Hagerstown, Md., before the advancing force of the enemy, and fell back upon Chambersburg, removing the stores and railroad stock before they went. Rumors of the capture of our troops at Winchester prove to be untrue.

General Milroy made a gallant defence at Winchester. He was surrounded by a rebel force of 18,000 men, but succeeded, after a hard fight, in cutting his way through and reaching Harper's Ferry. Our troops at Martinsburg also got back upon the Ferry. General Milroy made a determined resistance before abandoning Winchester, but the rebels being strongly reinforced on Sunday, there was nothing for it but to cut himself out. He lost 2,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners.

Lieutenant Palmer arrived at Chambersburg yesterday, and reported that he had to fight his way two miles out from Greencastle, and that the enemy were then advancing in three columns from that place—one towards Gettysburg and Waynesboro, one towards Mercersburg and another direct upon Chambersburg. The reports are confirmed by the fact that the rebels entered Chambersburg at nine o'clock last night, as we learn by more recent despatches. A universal panic prevails throughout Pennsylvania.

In this emergency the President has issued a call for a hundred thousand militia, to be furnished at once for six months' service. They are apportioned as follows among the States in immediate danger:—From the State of Maryland ten thousand, from the State of Pennsylvania fifty thousand, from the State of Ohio thirty thousand.

Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, has also issued a proclamation conjuring the people of that State to turn out and defend their firesides against the advancing forces of General Lee. He says that the issue is one of preservation or destruction. In a despatch yesterday to the Collector of Philadelphia, Mr. Thomas, the Governor says that Lee's army is approaching Harrisburg in force, and that he must have men to meet him. The leading citizens of Philadelphia have telegraphed to Washington for General Cadwallader to come to their assistance.

Governor Tod, of Ohio, has also issued a proclamation, calling out 90,000 volunteers for the defence of the border.

Governor Seymour received a despatch from Washington yesterday calling for twenty thousand men of the militia force immediately. He at once sent for the different major generals to come to Albany for consultation. The Governor is taking

steps to complete the organization of the militia. A draft will be made under the State law to fill up the regiments until the twenty thousand are supplied. All the militia regiments in this city are under orders to-day to turn out, and start immediately for Philadelphia "on short service," by command of Governor Seymour.

The news from Vicksburg to the 10th reports no change there. Johnston continues to receive reinforcements from the East and is preparing for a forward movement. Our troops at Milliken's Bend have also been reinforced.

We give further particulars to-day of the movements of the rebel privateers, which appear to be growing more formidable every day.

Our latest news from Mexico by the Roscoe yesterday from Havana confirms the report of the escape of the Mexican officers captured at Puebla. Generals Ortega, Prieto, Pinzon, LaLlave and Patoni had arrived at Jalapa, and expressed their determination to make their way to the capital. Only four thousand French troops had been left to garrison Puebla, the remainder of the army having pushed on towards Mexico City. The defence of that city has been entrusted to General La Garza, and Juarez was there up to the 25th ult.

The HERALD's special agent in the West Indies furnishes very interesting reports, dated at Nassau, N. P., 6th of May, and Kingston, Jamaica, on the 5th of June, relative to results produced by the American rebellion in this section of the British colonies.

The English frigates Ariadne and Aboukir lay in Port Royal harbor, and it was ordered that they should be kept always ready for sea at a few hours' warning. A new battery was to be built at immense cost and a huge depot of war material was already formed on the island. The old batteries were to be fortified with Armstrong guns. The negroes of Jamaica supported the cause of the rebels, and Captain Semmes was regarded as a hero since his last visit to the island. In Nassau the colored folks did not apparently care whether their brethren in the Southern States were bond or free. This revolution of feeling was induced by the representatives of Confederate emissaries and the advance in laborers' wages produced by the Angle-rebel trade of running the blockade. In Nassau many houses had made large fortunes already by this traffic alone. The thousand bales of cotton awaited shipment to Europe from Nassau.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Board of Aldermen yesterday received a joint communication from the Mayor and Comptroller, designating the New York HERALD and Tribune as the papers in which the Corporation advertisements are to be published. A statue of Andrew Jackson, originally executed for one of the Southern States, was offered to the city of New York for \$30,000. A resolution to rescind a former resolution giving the Hudson River Railroad Company power to run a dummy engine on their track in the lower part of the city was adopted. The salaries of the assistant engineers of steam fire engines were fixed at \$1,000 a year.

In the Board of Councilmen last evening, a communication was received from the Comptroller, containing his weekly statement of the condition of the city finances, from which it appears that the balance remaining in the city treasury on the 15th inst. was \$1,538,834.94. A joint communication was received from the Mayor and Comptroller, designating the HERALD and Tribune as Corporation papers during the legal proceedings now pending to have the Corporation advertising given to the four papers having the largest circulation. It was ordered on file. The ordinance from the Board of Aldermen to appropriate an additional sum of \$500,000 for the relief of the families of volunteers was concurred in. The resolution from the Board of Aldermen to appropriate \$2,500 to the widow of the late George W. Badger, foreman of Engine Company No. 19, who was killed in January last at the fire in Cherry street, was amended, making the amount \$1,000, and then adopted. After transacting a large amount of routine business, the Board adjourned until Thursday evening next, at four o'clock.

At the weekly meeting of the Central Relief Committee of Ireland, held in the City Hall of Dublin on the 29th of May, the Lord Mayor handed in a draft for \$500 from the New York Irish Relief Committee, per Richard Bell, Esq., and \$28 75, 3d, from Boston, United States, per Patrick Donahue. Rev. Dr. Murray handed in the following subscriptions received by his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Cullen—£800, being a portion of a collection made, by order of the Most Rev. Dr. Fitzpatrick, and £44 10s. 11d., being the one-fourth of the subscriptions from the soldiers of the South-western Army of the United States, per the Most Rev. Dr. Hughes, Archbishop of New York.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday, before Recorder Hoffman, John Lowrie, alias Robert Vernon, was tried on an indictment for burglary in the third degree, which charged him with entering the premises No. 245 avenue A, on the 25th of May last, for the purpose of stealing \$490 in gold and silver coin, the property of Mr. Jacob Fussner. The jury, after remaining out a short time, brought in a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner, who is an old offender, was remanded for sentence until Saturday next.

The Lafayette (Indiana) Journal says that it learns from very good authority that Gen. Burnside will not much longer be continued as commander of the Department of the Ohio.

The Union Leagues of Maryland, which are composed of members in favor of the whole policy of the government, will hold a State Convention to-day in Baltimore.

According to the City Inspector's report, there were 406 deaths in the city during the past week—an increase of 56 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 71 more than occurred during the corresponding week last year. The recapitulation table gives 3 deaths of alcoholism, 4 of diseases of the bones, joints, &c.; 80 of the brain and nerves, 12 of the generative organs, 16 of the heart and blood vessels, 119 of the lungs, throat, &c.; 3 of old age, 31 of diseases of the skin and eruptive fevers, 2 premature births, 60 of diseases of the stomach, bowels and other digestive organs; 47 of uncertain seat and general fevers, 8 of diseases, and 1 unknown. There were 200 violent cases of the United States, 9 of England, 100 of Ireland, 2 of Scotland, 29 of Germany, and the balance of various foreign countries.

The stock market was better yesterday morning, and prices of the railway shares advanced 3/4, a 1 per cent. In the afternoon the advance was not maintained. Gold rose to 147 1/2, but fell back afterwards, and closed at 147 1/2 P. M. at about 146 1/2. Money was easier, call loans, 6 1/2 per cent. The bank statement shows a decrease of \$2,216,904 in deposits and \$1,938,237 in loans, and an increase of \$642,453 in specie.

The advance to gold and sterling exchange yesterday occasioned a better inquiry for breadstuffs and a material rise in prices. Provisions were in moderate request, and pork and lard were firmer. Groceries were rather quiet as hitherto were honey, oil, oil, seed and wheat straw. Cotton was still dull, but was active. A fair business was reported in hay, tallow and whiskey. The freight market was more active and brisk.

The Advance of the Rebel Army of Virginia—Washington Again Threatened—Great Events at Hand.

The city was startled yesterday with the exciting news of another invasion of Maryland by some advanced detachments of the rebel army of Virginia; by the positive information, in this connection, of a rapid flank movement northward by General Lee with the main body of his army, and by the proclamation of President Lincoln calling for a hundred thousand militia from the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, to aid in the work of driving back the enemy.

With the additional details which we publish to-day of the movements of the rebel forces in the Shenandoah valley, and on the Potomac below Washington, and in Maryland and Pennsylvania, it is very clear that Gen. Lee has resolved, sink or swim, upon some bold and desperate enterprise to repair the sinking fortunes of the rebellion. It is well known that since the last great battles on the Rappahannock he has been heavily reinforced from North and South Carolina, while our Army of the Potomac has been considerably reduced by the loss of many regiments of veteran volunteers with the expiration of their appointed terms of service. Thus we dare say that the army of Lee, in point of numbers, is now fully equal, if not superior, to that of General Hooker. At all events, it is abundantly manifest that Lee regards himself sufficiently strong to undertake an aggressive campaign, and that in the outset he has stolen a march upon General Hooker and the War Office.

The question recurs, what are the objects and what are the expectations of the enemy in this aggressive campaign? What are they driving at? Is it a destructive foray through Maryland into the heart of Pennsylvania, or the capture of Washington by a rapid movement, with an overwhelming force, upon the rear of the city? Or is Lee aiming, with the main body of his army, to cut in between Gen. Hooker and the national capital, and thus to cut him off and cut his columns to pieces? We, of course, know nothing of the dispositions of Gen. Hooker's forces since the breaking up of his camps on the Rappahannock. It will suffice for the present that his whole army is in motion towards Washington, and from this fact it is likely that, between some portions of the two armies, a sanguinary collision may at any moment occur, if it has not already taken place.

But from the eighteen thousand rebels reported at Winchester, in the Shenandoah valley, and from the ten thousand or more who crossed into Maryland below Harper's Ferry, and from the fact that no rebel forces have been reported as on any of the roads leading from Culpepper to Washington, it is probable that Lee is moving his whole army around on the rear of Washington, or for a destructive campaign through Maryland and Pennsylvania, before General Hooker can come to the rescue. A very few days will now settle the question. Lee must indeed be very strong if he can spare twenty or thirty thousand men for a foraging incursion into Maryland and Pennsylvania, and yet feel strong enough to meet and arrest the march of General Hooker towards Washington. We shall doubtless have some definite intelligence to-day of the whereabouts of the main body of the rebel army; and if it shall turn out that it is not in the neighborhood of Manassas, we may next expect to hear of another formidable siege, although we trust not another disgraceful capitulation, at Harper's Ferry. The safe arrival there of that tried and able soldier, General Milroy, after having cut his way through an overwhelming force of the enemy at Winchester, renders it certain that Harper's Ferry, if necessary, will be held and defended to the last.

Let us only bear that the main body of the rebel army in superior strength is not in front of General Hooker, and we shall feel perfectly satisfied that Lee is on a fatal expedition to his army; but otherwise we may expect, and before the expiration of the present week, some of the most terrible battles of the war.

The Metropolis in a State of Great Excitement.

All of yesterday the city presented an appearance of unusual excitement. Crowds were collected around the bulletin boards of the different journals, discussing the rumors of rebel advances and attacks with intense eagerness. It was affirmed by many that the proclamation of President Lincoln, calling for one hundred thousand militia to take the field, was the result of an overwhelming invasion of Pennsylvania by the rebels, they having overrun Maryland. Others contradicted these startling assertions, and were well assured that the rebels had left Maryland and Pennsylvania, and were at present almost in Washington. These parties blamed the delay of the administration, and were anxious to ascertain "where we are going to."

It was generally conceded that the one hundred thousand militiamen would easily be gathered together, and some were sanguine enough to suppose they would "fight tremendously." That Washington would fall into the power of Lee and his hordes was asserted by some, but stoutly denied by the many. It was supposed by some, but ridiculed by others, that the rebel army far outnumbered the Union forces, and that the result of a pitched battle would necessarily be disastrous to the latter. Amid all the excitement and conflicting reports and rumors, the brokers in Wall street attended to business without a thought of what might become of the country. Gold had risen some three or four per cent, and the worshippers of the shining metal were busily employed. Extras they paid but little attention to; they were given up to the rise of their idol. To add to the feverish excitement of the people came the news that a whole fleet of clippers, barques, schooners and brig were to be armed and manned and sent off after the rebel army, a vessel which has so audaciously seized and burned under our very noses a dozen of our merchantmen.

The New York Herald as the Corporation Paper.

We have received from Comptroller Brennan the following brief but complimentary document, which speaks so emphatically for itself that we have only to add that we publish the official report of the proceedings of the Board of Aldermen for the first time this morning:—
CITY OF NEW YORK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, June 11, 1863.
JAMES GORDON BERNETT, Esq.,
Dear Sir:—At a meeting this day of the Mayor and myself it was deemed advisable to select two journals in which to advertise for the city, in pursuance of the act authorizing the tax levy of 1863. I have accordingly designated the New York HERALD, as having the largest circulation in every respect, beyond dispute or question. The Mayor has designated the New York Tribune. Yours, truly,
LAWRENCE T. BRENNAN, Comptroller.

This appointment of the HERALD as a Corporation paper is made in pursuance of an act of the Legislature providing that the Corporation advertisements of this city shall be published in the four daily papers having the largest circulation. The four papers cannot be designated at present, on account of a difference of opinion between the Comptroller and the Mayor as to whether the Legislature intended the four papers having the largest general circulation or the four papers having the largest circulation in this city. Comptroller Brennan holds to the latter view, Mayor Opdyke to the former; and the Comptroller is undoubtedly correct. The national government publishes its Post Office advertisements in the paper having the largest circulation in the city where the Post Office is located. Upon the same principle the Corporation advertisements should be published in the paper having the largest circulation within the Corporation limits. This is the rule in all other cities, and must be in this. The people of Iowa or Kamtschatka, or Minnesota or Nova Zembla, are not interested in our local advertisements. Consequently a paper having a large circulation only in those charming but distant regions has no claim upon the advertising of our Corporation. It is the citizens of New York who wish to be officially informed in regard to their own municipal affairs, and the paper having the greatest city circulation is the paper to so inform them.

Fortunately, however, the circulation of the HERALD is such as to remove all possibility of debate in regard to its appointment. The HERALD has both the largest city circulation and the largest general circulation of all the newspapers issued in this metropolis. As Comptroller Brennan says, "I have accordingly designated the New York HERALD, as having the largest circulation in every respect, beyond dispute or question." The matter is settled, therefore, as far as the HERALD is concerned, and the courts will decide the question as to the three other official papers. A friendly discussion between the counsel of the Comptroller and the Mayor upon this subject has already been held before Judge Welles; a mandamus has been issued, and the Comptroller will carry the matter before the Court of Appeals, in order to secure a judicial interpretation of the law. The HERALD is now the Corporation paper not only of New Orleans and several Western cities, but also of New York, and it is at the same time the newspaper officially authorized to publish the Post Office advertisements, on account of its superior circulation over its city contemporaries. These facts need no words to set them off and embellish them. It is obvious to everybody that hundreds of thousands of dollars would have been saved to the city and the taxpayers in the opening, widening and paving of streets, the erection of public buildings and the arrangement of all sorts of Corporation contracts, if the official advertisements had been published in the HERALD long ago—to say nothing of the convenience of those interested in such affairs, who would then have had only to look for the Corporation advertisements in the same paper in which they always look for the news.

The fact is, however, that Legislatures and corporations are always several years behind the people in discovering what is best and most economical in such matters. The chambermaids, the merchants, the business men of all sections of the city and country, found out long ago that the HERALD was the best advertising medium. Our immense circulation taught them that, as it has now taught the Legislature and the Corporation. The servant girls came to advertise in the HERALD because they found that paper in every house in which they were ever employed, and they therefore naturally and correctly argued that the HERALD would be the best place to advertise. The fact is, however, that Legislatures and corporations are always several years behind the people in discovering what is best and most economical in such matters. The chambermaids, the merchants, the business men of all sections of the city and country, found out long ago that the HERALD was the best advertising medium. Our immense circulation taught them that, as it has now taught the Legislature and the Corporation. The servant girls came to advertise in the HERALD because they found that paper in every house in which they were ever employed, and they therefore naturally and correctly argued that the HERALD would be the best place to advertise. The fact is, however, that Legislatures and corporations are always several years behind the people in discovering what is best and most economical in such matters. The chambermaids, the merchants, the business men of all sections of the city and country, found out long ago that the HERALD was the best advertising medium. Our immense circulation taught them that, as it has now taught the Legislature and the Corporation. The servant girls came to advertise in the HERALD because they found that paper in every house in which they were ever employed, and they therefore naturally and correctly argued that the HERALD would be the best place to advertise.

steamship proprietor advertising in the HERALD, regardless of expense, because, as he says, he finds our paper wherever he travels, in all the cars, steamboats, hotels and private houses, and is, therefore, convinced that it must be the paper for him. All of our other advertisers have arrived at the same conclusion; and, having once tested the value of the HERALD as an advertising medium, it is in vain to try to induce them to advertise anywhere else, although one of our poorest and meanest contemporaries made the attempt some time ago by means of a secret circular. Among the proprietors of places of public amusement it is an axiom in regard to advertisements that "a line in the HERALD is worth a column in any other paper." Thus the HERALD is in effect the official advertising organ not only of the national Post Office and the Corporations of this and other cities, but also of our entire business community and of the people of the whole country.

Onerous Tax on Commerce Under the Tonnage Act of July, 1862.

The construction put upon this law by the customs authorities at this port has given rise to many serious complaints among our merchants and shipowners, and is deemed by them to be not only violative of the spirit of the act itself, but contrary to all well conceived ideas of that justice and equity by which it is believed its framers were governed in its enactment.

By its terms it will be seen that all vessels entering at a custom house in the United States, from any foreign port, excepting ports in the British provinces of North America, the West Indies, Mexico and Central America, are compelled to pay a duty of ten cents per ton on each and every entry of the vessel, while vessels from ports in these localities pay once a year. This portion of the act, although deemed by many to be in violation of existing treaty stipulations, is easily understood, and, with few exceptions, readily acquiesced in. Included in this provision of the law, by which vessels engaged in trade with these before-mentioned specially favored localities are exempted from the payment of this tax, except annually, are all vessels licensed to trade between different districts of the United States; and in the construction placed upon this particular portion of the law may be found the cause of nearly all the many complaints which are daily being made against it on the ground of its partial and unjust operation. Now, no person, on reading this law, which says that all vessels licensed to trade between different districts of the United States are exempt from the payment of this tax, except once a year, can for a single moment imagine or believe that it was the intention of its framers that vessels so employed should be compelled to pay every time they enter at a custom house. Yet so it is, unless they happen to be sailing under an enrolment and license. Now, let us glance for a moment at the operation of this law, under the construction that a vessel must be specially licensed to trade coastwise, or rather that in order to entitle her to the benefit of this exemption she must sail under the protection of a paper specially marked "license."

Under the acts of 1792-93 there are two kinds of papers, under one of which each and every vessel must sail. Those employed in the coasting trade usually sail under the protection of an enrolment and license, the former of which is perpetual, or need never be changed so long as she remains in this trade, the owners remain the same and there is no change in the rig or size of the vessel; while the latter is in force only one year, when it must be surrendered for a new one, at which time the United States hospital dues for the time she has been running must be paid. Vessels engaged in trade with foreign ports must, under the act of 1792, sail under a register, which need never be renewed except there be a change of ownership or an alteration in the size or rig. Under this document they not only have the right to trade coastwise, but to all parts of the world. This is the highest grade of license known under our laws, and it is folly to suppose for a moment that vessels sailing under such a document are not entitled to all the benefits accorded to enrolled vessels under this act.

The question is simply this: Are vessels having papers which permit them to trade with all parts of the world equal in privileges to those under enrolment and license, which cannot go to a foreign port without incurring the penalty of forfeiture of vessel and cargo? It is claimed that the papers of these vessels may be changed whenever the owners choose, and that they can thereby avoid the payment of the tax; but that, as an argument, has no force; nor is it believed that the law contemplates a compulsory change of papers when not desired by the owners. Let us take, for example, a vessel sailing from this port to Portland, Me. As a matter of course, she may sail under an enrolment and license, or a register; but she takes out her license here, at which time she is compelled to pay her tonnage dues of ten cents per ton, and goes to Portland. While there a charter is offered for a port in the British provinces, a few hundred miles distant, which, on being taken, necessitates a change of papers; for her enrolment only permits her to trade coastwise. A register is therefore taken out, she goes to her destination, returns to this port, where tonnage dues are exacted on entry. So far no complaint is made.

The vessel then goes to Philadelphia under her register, where the dues are again exacted; thence again to this port, where they must again be paid; at which the master and owner, under the delusion that the tax is onerous, are ready to suggest the propriety of government taking the vessel at once, instead of by monthly instalments. In this instance it may be asked, "Why do you not change your papers, so as to avoid payment of these dues?" The master may reply that he prefers sailing under a document by which he is licensed to trade everywhere, and that it is not the intention of the law to compel him to incur the expense of a change of papers at every port at which he may arrive.

We will admit in this case that the master has it in his power to avoid the tax. But now let us take, for example, a steamer plying between this port and New Orleans, via Havana. In this case she must sail under a register, on pain of the penalty of forfeiture. She goes to Havana thence to New Orleans, where the dues are exacted and paid. She returns to Havana, thence to this port, where on entry she presents a receipt from the customs authorities at New Orleans to the effect that the dues have been paid at that port on her arrival from Havana; and, as vessels trading with the West Indies are only compelled to pay annually, it cannot be again exacted. But the master is told by the authorities here that he is to pay from New Or-

leans, therefore continues, and, being under register, must pay again, which, as a matter of course, after argument is exhausted, is under protest. On his next trip the same vessel is seized off the coast of Virginia by the revenue cutter, and although he cannot without setting his vessel sail under any other document than a register, he is compelled to submit to this outrageous exaction at every port may enter.

A law which compels a man to commit a certain act, when by the same law he knows will be sentenced to be hung for its commission, must either be radically wrong or lawmakers must err in the construction upon it.

The Privateer Operations Off Our Coast.—To the list of captures by rebel privateers which we published yesterday and Sunday, we have to add this morning that of the brig Abella, seized off the coast of Virginia by the revenue cutter, and although he cannot without setting his vessel sail under any other document than a register, he is compelled to submit to this outrageous exaction at every port may enter.

These repeated captures so near our coast, as may be imagined, created the greatest alarm among the shipping interest. The excitement caused by them, in fact, as great as that caused by Lee's threatened advance in Pennsylvania and Maryland. On every side it is to be heard imprecations against the indifference and slothfulness of the Navy Department, which, it is contended, could, with ordinary energy, have prevented these depredations. It is, in fact, this unfortunate inprovidence which has been the cause of all our losses and failure. It is only when the misfortune is upon us that we take steps to guard against it. In the eleven hour we at last find the Navy Department wakening up to a sense of its responsibility.

Within a day or two upwards of twenty government cruisers have been despatched from this port, Philadelphia and Boston in search of the rebel privateers. The officers at the different navy yards deserve the greatest credit for the promptitude with which they have got the vessels ready for sea, and the zeal exhibited in their shows how much the department could have accomplished if it had only set its energies to work in time. It is by calculating its apathy that the rebel privateers have been enabled to effect these daring captures close to our coast; for it has been reasonably argued that when, with vessels like the Baltic and Atlantic at its command, it made no attempt to check the depredations of the Alabama and Florida, it would not be likely to interfere with the operations of smaller craft even though venturing almost to the very straits of our ports.

It is to be hoped that the newborn energy thus displayed by the department is not spasmodic, and that it will not pass away with the danger that presses so closely home to us. It is only by straining every effort, and that perseveringly, that amendments can be made for the uncountable indifference and neglect that have allowed the rebel navy to grow to its present formidable proportions.

The West Indies—Their Attitude Toward the United States.

We publish to-day several interesting letters from the special agent of the HERALD in the West Indies, giving an account of the sort of neutrality which is practised in those islands in relation to the war between the United States government and the so-called Confederate States. He shows that their neutrality is all on one side, and that they are doing everything in their power to favor the Southern privateers and cruisers and to promote the cause of the rebellion, while, on the other hand, they leave nothing undone to damage the character and destroy the interests of the United States.

They are indulging a twofold passion—hatred of the American republic and a desire to grow rich at the expense of their continental neighbors. They have long envied the greatness and feared the growing power of the United States, and they now rejoice to see the nation prostrate by intestine war, as they think, beyond the hope of recovery. Hence they are insolent and audacious. The public journals and the organs of opinion are almost without an exception on the side of the South, and no opportunity is lost of wounding the North. Even the very negroes have declared in favor of the government of Jeff. Davis. They know on which side their bread is buttered—they are making money rapidly by assisting the running of the blockade, and they calculate upon impunity, imagining that the republic is broken up and ruined. But, though cast down, it is not yet destroyed; and the day will come when the West Indies may be made to feel that honesty is the best policy, and that they have waked up the wrong passenger. Conscious of their guilt, they have sought and obtained the protection of British frigates, and we are told that Port Royal, in Jamaica, is to be fortified at a cost of two and a half millions of dollars. Armstrong guns have been already mounted on the batteries, and an enormous quantity of war material of every kind had been sent from England to the magazines. But these preparations will not save them from a just retribution.

When our internal strife is ended we shall pay attention to matters outside. We shall then have two great armies at our disposal, henceforward to be united; and these troops will be far happier to find employment in attacking the West Indies than to be fighting against each other in unnatural, fratricidal war. Let no one imagine that because we do not now resent the insults and the wrongs inflicted upon us we shall not do so hereafter, when our hands are no longer full of domestic troubles. We hide our time, and meanwhile we will develop the best and most improved iron-clad vessels-of-war, which will enable us to maintain our supremacy on the waters of the Atlantic and the Gulf. Thus the day is not distant when we shall be in a position to chastise the insolence of Jamaica, New Providence and those other islands which have taken a mean advantage of our civil war to injure us and to add insults to injury.

Action Against the City for \$50,000 Damages.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.
Before Hon. Judge Shipman.
JAMES H. BURNETT, Plaintiff, vs. THE CITY OF NEW YORK, Defendant. The plaintiff's petition for damages for destruction of property by the fire at the City Hall, on the 15th of September, 1862, was heard by the court, and Mr. Burnett, supported by Mr. Broughton, succeeded in his efforts for the plaintiff.

Rebel Cavalry Dash into Nashville, Ky.

CHICAGO, June 15, 1863.
Two hundred and fifty mounted rebels dashed into Nashville, Ky., last night. They left their horses and guns at the city, and fled to the mountains.